Status of IT Park at Guwahati

2114. DR.(SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of I.T. Park at Guwahati and when is it likely to become functional;

(b) whether it is a fact that in order to facilitate the use of this I.T. Park by the entrepreneurs, the earth station for independent Gateway at Guwahati and optical fibre networking in Guwahati would be essential; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to simultaneously complete these works with the I.T. Park?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The Software Technology Park (STP) at Guwahati is targetted to become functional by August 2000.

An earth station is required to provide High Speed Data Communication (HSDC) facility to the software exporting units in the STP complex. Optical fibre or Radio Link would be required to extend the HSDC facility to outside units.

The Earth station is being commissioned and is likely to become operational by August, 2000. The Optical fibre connectivity, if required, will be leased from the Department of Telecommunication or other authorised service providers.

Mortage of Children in Sivakasi

2115. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of mortgage of children in Sivakasi fire work factories; and

(b) what are the steps taken to release the mortgage of Children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) As per information received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu, no Child Labourers are employed in Fireworks Factories in Sivakasi.

Accidents in Mines

2116. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of accidents which took place in mines in the country during last three years;

(b) the total number of casualties which took place, year-wise;

(c) the reasons for the accidents; and

(d) the safety measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (c) The total number of accidents which took place in mines in the country during last three years are as under:—

Year	No. of accidents	No. of casualties
1997	1155	242
1998	967	218
1999*	761	219

*Provisional.

These accidents mainly occurred in mines due to fall of roof, fall of sides, rope haulages, dumpers, truck tanker, other machinery, explosives, fall of persons and fall of object etc.

(d) Detailed safety measures to improve safety in mines have been laid down in the Mines Act, 1952 and the Rules and Regulations framed thereunder. It is the responsibility of the mines managements to comply with the same. The owners and agents of each mine are responsible for making financial and other provisions and for taking other such steps as may be necessary for compliance with the safety laws. The Directorate General of Mines Safety has the responsibility to see that the safety statute is kept updated taking into